

## Colonel Curtis L. Thalken

Commander and District Engineer

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Colonel Curtis L. Thalken is a native of Nebraska. He is a graduate from the United States Military Academy, at West Point, with a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering. He received a Masters Degree in Engineering Sciences from the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College and a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies and International Relations from the U.S. Naval War College.

His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms and Services Staff College, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Joint Forces Staff College and the

U.S. Naval War College.

Colonel Thalken began his military career in 1983 as a Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer, 642d Engineer Company (Combat Support Equipment) and Battalion Maintenance Officer, for the Combat Support Battalion, both at Fort Devens, Massachusetts; Supply Officer (S-4) and Operations Officer (S-3) of the 34th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), Supply Officer (S-4), for the 937<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group, and Commander 55<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (Medium Girder Bridge) all at Fort Riley, Kansas. In 1993, he became an Instructor and subsequently as a Course Director in the Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. From 1996 to 2000 his positions included, Assistant Operations Officer (S-3) and then Operations Officer (S-3) for the 130<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade, Hanau Germany; Contingency Plans Officer at Headquarters USAREUR and 7<sup>th</sup> Army, and Assistant Corps Engineer, V Corps, both in Heidelberg, Germany. Following that tour, Colonel Thalken became Commander, 92<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), Fort Stewart, Georgia and deployed the battalion to Afghanistan and surrounding countries from November 2001 until June 2002; he then served as an Experimentation Officer, Joint Concept Development and Experimentation Directorate, Joint Forces Command in Suffolk, Virginia.

Colonel Thalken's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4<sup>th</sup> OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> OLC), National Defense Service Medal (1 BSS), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Parachutist Badge, and the Army Superior Unit Award.